

Application No. 09/809,575
Applicant: Borislav BOGDANOVIC ET AL.
Reply to Office Action Dated July 15, 2003
Amendment Dated December 15, 2003

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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

At the outset, Applicants point out that the amendments above clearly place the application in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, no stringent showing is required under 37 CFR § 1.116(a) regarding why the amendments above are necessary and were not presented earlier. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter and consider the amendments above.

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The sole issue for consideration is obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 16 and 25 were rejected on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 2 and 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,372. Claims 1-9, 15-21 and 25 were rejected on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-8 and 11-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,221,285. In response, Applicants point out that claims 10-14 were indicated to be free of both rejections. Accordingly, Applicants have taken the substance of claim 10 into main claim 1. Therefore, all of the claims, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, should be free of these rejections as well.

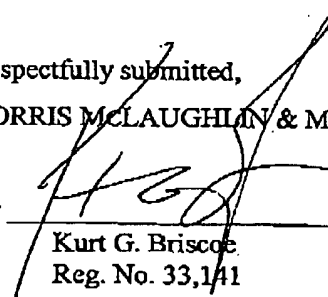
Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

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Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By 
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37/CFR § 1.116 and the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: December 15, 2003

By 
Kurt G. Briscoe